

DRAFT

Canada thistle

Cirsium arvense



Quick ID:

- ◆ Perennial with purplish pink flowers less than 2.5 cm across
- ◆ Prickly stems and leaves
- ◆ Extensive creeping rhizome

Habitat:

- ◆ Deep creeping rhizome that allows it to survive below the cultivation zone
- ◆ A single plant is capable of producing over 6 m of rhizome per year
- ◆ Stems up to 120 cm tall, are leafy and hollow, becoming hairy with age
- ◆ An individual plant may produce over 40,000 seeds
- ◆ Seeds are viable in soil for up to 21 years

How It Got Here:

- ◆ Introduced from France in the late 1700s
- ◆ Now found throughout Canada and the northern half of the United States

Reasons for Concern:

- ◆ Canada thistle is an aggressive weed and has the potential to reduce crop yields by 100%
- ◆ The rhizomes are unaffected **by cultivation as they grow below normal tillage depths**